

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A method for restoring traffic in a network. The  
network includes plural distinct nodes interconnected by  
plural distinct spans, each span having working links and  
spare links. Each node has a digital cross-connect switch  
for making and breaking connections between adjacent spans  
forming span pairs at a node. Cross-connections between  
10 spare links in adjacent spans are made such that sets of  
successive nodes through which the adjacent spans form span  
paths form closed paths. A method of finding and  
construction closed paths is described in which statelets  
are broadcast through the network. In a preferred method of  
15 implementation of the method, the statelet broadcast occurs  
not in response to a network failure, but across the entire  
network before any particular span failure and may be  
carried out during normal network operations as a continual  
re-configuration of the network.